

SENATOR HALL: And the rationale for that is what?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The rationale for that is this. I'm also striking the credit and so...

SENATOR HALL: The income tax credit that...the income tax credit would go away as well?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SENATOR HALL: Okay. But the reduction, why the reduction in the basically the checkoff provision?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, the reduction, the income tax credit doesn't go away all at once entirely, but the income tax credit goes away in stages as you can see in the amendment.

SENATOR HALL: So that's the bottom half of the amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's the bottom half of the amendment, right. And the reduction in the producer credit is simply because I don't think in total we should be putting that much money into the fund at this particular point in time. As you know, my philosophy is it may be in two or three years when we look at the variety of things for which we want to spend General Funds, that there may be other things that are more important which doesn't necessarily mean that we don't fund the credit, or the we don't fund the incentive fund, but rather maybe we want to do it in a different way. Maybe we want to increase the producer tax. Maybe we don't need the money at all and we can simply reduce the producer tax. But in any event, I would like some assurance that the general funding would end at that point time, that is essentially at the end of 1998, and then let the Legislature review if additional funds are needed.

SENATOR HALL: Would you, Senator Beutler, be amenable to taking your amendment in two parts? I don't have any problem with the second part.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's fine, whatever, Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: I find it difficult to deal with the reduction in the one cent to three-quarters. I would have to agree with Senator Wehrbein that the way the bill is currently drafted